

JOHN CAMPBELL.—HEIRS OF.

JANUARY 20, 1832.

Mr. MUHLENBERG, from the Committee on Revolutionary Claims, made the following

REPORT:

The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to which was referred the petition of the heirs of the late Major John Campbell, of the city of New York, and Assistant Deputy Quartermaster General during the revolutionary war, report:

This case was favorably reported on at the first session of the last Congress, and a bill submitted for the relief of the petitioners, which bill passed the House of Representatives at the second session of the 21st Congress, but was, with many others, not definitely acted upon in the Senate. The report of the Committee on Revolutionary Claims, of the last Congress, embracing all the circumstances of the case, is hereto annexed, and concurred in. The committee, therefore, again report a bill for the relief of the petitioners.

MARCH 5, 1830.

The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to whom was referred the petition of Margaret Cooper, Sarah Kirk, and Jeremiah Van Antwerp, surviving children of the late Major John Campbell, of the city of New York, an Assistant Deputy Quartermaster General during the revolutionary war, report:

That they have had the said petition, and documents accompanying the same, under consideration: that from the statement of the petitioners, and documents, it satisfactorily appears, that the said John Campbell, in the month of December, 1776, was appointed by H. Hughes, Deputy Quartermaster General, Foragemaster at the post at Peekskill, with the pay and rations of a Major: that he continued in service as Foragemaster until he was taken into service as an assistant deputy Quartermaster General, in which capacity he faithfully served the residue of the revolutionary war. His faithful services and highly meritorious character are abundantly proved by the certificates of Major General Alexander M'Dougal, Major General William Heath, Major General Henry Knox, and many other highly distinguished officers, who knew the said Major John Campbell while in service. The committee

further report, that it satisfactorily appears, as well from a letter marked B, hereunto annexed, from William Simmons, dated, 17th September, 1792, then chief clerk in the Auditor's office in the Treasury Department, as from other documentary proof, that the said John Campbell, very soon after the close of the revolutionary war, applied for the settlement of his account, and frequently thereafter solicited that a settlement might be made with him, and that the only objection on the part of the officers of the Government to closing his account, arose from the refusal of Colonel Hughes, a deputy Quartermaster General, under whom Campbell had served, to render his account, and the subsequent destruction of the accounts and papers of the said Hughes by fire; that it does not appear that any settlement was ever made with the said John Campbell for his services, pay, or rations, as Foragemaster, or assistant Quartermaster, but that it does appear from letters marked C and D, hereunto annexed, from R. Harrison and John Crosby, dated, Treasury Department Auditor's Office, 1st January, 1793, that the accounts of the said John Campbell, as assistant deputy Quartermaster, from August, 1780, to the end of the war, had been completed in that office, excepting his claims for pay, rations, and extra services; from which account, excluding his previous services as assistant Quartermaster and Barrackmaster, and his pay and rations, it would appear that the said John Campbell was then indebted to the United States in the sum of \$2,841 03. That it further appears, that the said John Campbell soon thereafter died, without effecting any settlement of his accounts. The committee, on examination and consideration of the documents and evidence in this case, are unanimously of opinion, that the petitioners are entitled to relief, and therefore ask leave to bring in a bill for that purpose.

B.

‘TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

Auditor's Office, Sept. 17, 1792.

SIR: I have perused Mr. John Campbell's letter of the 11th inst. to the Secretary of the Treasury, wherein he complains of an unjust delay in the settlement of his public accounts, whereby he has sustained much injury by being deprived of his just demands.

Agreeably to your request, I here state the case of Mr. Campbell, which is as follows, viz:

That he acted in several capacities in the Quartermaster Department, from the latter end of the year 1776, to the close of the war, and has had the disbursements of large sums of public money, and has also issued certificates to a considerable amount.

In Mr. Denning's time, I recollect Mr. Campbell applying to him for a settlement of his accounts, as an assistant to Hugh Hughes, late deputy Quartermaster General; but the objection to a settlement at that time was, that Mr. Campbell had delivered his accounts, from the commencement of his business, to August, 1780, to Col. Hughes, his principal, who refused to render his own accounts, or those of his assistants.

The Commissioner repeatedly called on Col. Hughes to render his accounts, but could not obtain them, which prevented the possibility of a settlement of Mr. Campbell's accounts at that time.

Mr. Burrall was afterwards appointed to succeed Mr. Denning in the office of Commissioner for the Quartermaster Department, and I recollect Mr. Campbell's applying to him, also, for a settlement of his accounts, but the objections before assigned still existed. Mr. Burrall also called on Colonel Hughes repeatedly to render his accounts, but could not obtain them; they finally were destroyed by fire. Mr. Campbell's accounts from August 1780, to the close of his business, were in his own possession. Mr. Burrall desired him to render those accounts, but informed him that, as the charges for moneys advanced by Col. Hughes could not be ascertained, a final settlement of them could not then be made. He therefore did not render them, but lodged a claim, in order to save himself from being barred by the limitation act which was then nearly expired.

In this state the business rested until August, 1791, when Mr. Campbell applied at this office for a settlement of his accounts, and delivered to me a large chest of papers, which he said contained his accounts from August, 1780, to the close of his business.

I inspected the accounts in his presence, and found that no statement of them had been made, and the papers in the utmost confusion.

Mr. Campbell acknowledged that the accounts were not in a state fit to render for settlement, and said that it was owing to the death of his clerk, who had been employed in the business. He proposed to employ a person at his own expense to put them in a state for settlement, but as he found it difficult to procure a suitable person to undertake the business, I proposed to have it done by the clerk in the office, at times when the business would permit. With this proposition, he seemed well satisfied. I accordingly employed two of the gentlemen for near a month in arranging his accounts, but one of the gentlemen leaving the office, and the current business pressing upon us, was obliged to have them laid aside, but should have reassumed the arrangement of them, as soon as the current business would permit. The loss of Col. Hughes' accounts will render it impossible to ascertain the moneys advanced to him, which will prevent a final settlement of his accounts until some special regulation shall take place for the adjustment of accounts thus circumstanced. From the foregoing state of facts, you will judge how far Mr. Campbell has a right to complain of an unnecessary delay in the settlement of his accounts.

I have the honor to be, sir, respectfully,

Your most obedient servant,

WM. SIMMONS.

To the Auditor of the Treasury.

C.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

Auditor's Office, Dec. 31, 1792.

SIR: I have stated the account of Mr. John Campbell, late assistant Deputy Quartermaster, as far as can be done from the papers exhibited at this office; and find that he is chargeable, as stated therein, to the amount of \$48,148 81, and that he is entitled to credit, exclusive of his pay, to the amount of \$45,307 78, leaving a balance against him of \$2,841 03. To what period or at what rate his pay is to be extended, is yet to be fixed. It is to be observed that this account commences in August, 1780, and that he

has disbursed money on account of his department to June 1784, but as his services at the latter part of this period were inconsiderable, and sundry derangements in the department took place, it is my opinion that he is not entitled to full pay.

Vouchers are wanting to the following accounts for which he has issued certificates, but which I have not admitted to his credit, viz :

No.	2,525.	Jacob Ellis	-	-	-	-	\$30 00
"	2,526.	Nathaniel Finch	-	-	-	-	30 00
"	2,539.	Gilbert V. Courtland	-	-	-	-	185 72
"	2,540.	Do.	-	-	-	-	22 48
"	2,544.	Jeremiah Drake	-	-	-	-	5 60
"	2,548.	George Lane	-	-	-	-	30 12
"	5,504.	John Lee	-	-	-	-	50 74
"	5,509.	Richard Hopper	-	-	-	-	88 67
"	5,510.	Do.	-	-	-	-	2 48
No.	6,368.	Nathan Green	-	-	-	-	7 48
"	6,452.	John Hadden	-	-	-	-	14 36
"	6,488.	John Andrews	-	-	-	-	7 84
"	*7,259.	Cornelius V. Tassel	-	-	-	-	55 60
"	12,269.	James Connolly	-	-	-	-	141 24
"	12,270.	Peter Ricks	-	-	-	-	140 60
							<hr/>
							\$813 $\frac{2}{3}$

The account cannot be considered as accurate, owing to the loss of Col. Hughes' papers. It is probable that advances were made him by Col. Hughes, which are not included in this account, as most of the charges for cash received of Col. Pickering, and *all* those received of David Wolfe, are wholly unnoticed by Mr. Campbell in his accounts.

JOHN CROSBY.

RICHARD HARRISON, Esquire,
Auditor of the Treasury.

D.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,

Auditor's Office, Jan. 1, 1793.

SIR : The examination of your accounts as assistant Deputy Quartermaster from August, 1780, to the end of the war, has been completed in this office; and, for your more particular information, I herewith transmit the remarks of the clerk who stated them. This I have deemed necessary, in order that you may have an opportunity, previous to any decision by me, to make, either in person or in writing, such additional observations and proofs, as you may have to offer. I shall expect to here from you soon, and am, sir,
Your obedient humble servant,

R. HARRISON.

Mr. JOHN CAMPBELL.

*Certificate, 6,358 for the like amount, and of the same date, &c. was issued to Cornelius V. Tassel; his account is particularly stated in a book kept by Mr. Campbell for that purpose, in which said certificate is charged. It does not appear that he rendered any service for which this certificate was issued. This is therefore presumed to be a mistake.